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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, August 23,  
1820, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Augt. 23. 1820.

Dear Sir

I return you the extract which you were so kind as to give me the perusal of, with an assurance of my thorough conviction that it cannot fail to have a good effect. The sentiments expressed in favor of an American interest & policy, intended in the first instance to the preservation of order along our coast, & in our seas, is sound, and will in all probability ripen into a system at no distant period. The destiny however of this western world depends on the continued prosperity & success of this portion of it. If the European has more wisdom & energy, than the African or Asiatick, I am satisfied that the citizens of this Republick, have in like proportion more, & for the same causes, than the inhabitants of any other portion of this hemisphere, not excepting those, or their descendants who emigrated from other countries, than that, from

which we took our origin.

The only danger attending a close connection with Portugal, or rather Brazil, is that which I suggested to you yesterday. Our union at this time against pirates would be represented by some as an union against the Colonies, since unfortunately all the piracies, if not

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conniv'd at by them, as I verily believe they are not, proceed from that quarter. Portugal would of course turn it to her account in that way, using as an instrument to prop her up against a revolutionary movement, which must overwhelm her with the others. The project of such an union will produce, as I presume, a good effect with the present govt. of Brazil, but it can never take effect with any but the revolutionary govts. of So. America.

Very respectfully & affectionately yours, James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).